

- I. **Council Pro Temp George Dutro called a meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 7:00 PM. Mayor Armstrong was away on an economic development trip to Asia.**

A. **Introduction of Page:** There were no pages for the evening.

B. **Opening Prayer** Mark Jones of First Christian Church

C. **Pledge** – Mr. Dutro led the pledge of Allegiance.

D. **Roll Call:** Present: John Brown, Ann DeVore, George Dutro, Craig Hawes, Robert Kittle, Martha Meyers, and August Tindell. Absent: NONE

E. **Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting** – John Brown moved to accept the minutes of the February 4th meeting and to incorporate the Mayor's "State of the City Address" of February 18 into the city record. Ann DeVore seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. **Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action**

Prior to entering into the business on the agenda, President Pro Temp Dutro clarified for those present that the Home Folks Restaurant re-zoning issue was not before the council for any action at this time. However, the council always welcomes the community to be present and be given opportunity to address the council. At the end of the official business of the council, Mr. Dutro said that he would open the meeting to the public, but preferred that the process taking place on a new zoning petition that is going through the Planning Staff and Commission be given its chance to work.

III. **New Business Requiring Council Action**

A. **Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2003, RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT FROM THE INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE OF THE STATE OF INDIANA TO SUPPORT DIRECT SERVICES TO THE COLUMBUS REGIONAL SHELTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS dba TURNING POINT."** Judy Jackson introduced Pat Smith, Turning Point Executive Director who gave an overview of the requirements and need for this annual grant from the Department of Criminal Justice. This grant provides for the delivery of direct services to those subject to domestic abuse. The total services of the local Turning Point Program are expanding to additional area counties. Some discussion followed regarding the number of people using the programs and how many returned to the injuring party. The program helped 151 adults and 163 children in 2002. In the local program 72.4% did not return to the injuring party compared to 30-45% nationally. Mr. Smith attributed this good rate to staff quality and good case management. There being no more questions, **Craig Hawes moved to approve the resolution. Martha Myers seconded. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

B. **Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2003, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS TO DESIGNATE THE USE OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2003 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR "B" PRIORITY ITEMS." (Parks department)** Chuck Wilt and Mike Gillespie came before the council to seek approval of the use of certain funds for projects in the Parks Department. \$128,330 is for the lease purchase of vehicles and \$8,521 is for Donner Center renovations. These funds are needed at this time due to the approaching summer season for the Parks. Due to reassessment and the anticipated delay in tax distribution to the city, all payments for these projects will be deferred, at the agreement of the vendors, until late August and early September in order to assure that the city has cash on hand by the time these cost come due. This resolution also makes reference to **Resolution No. 4, 2003, "A Resolution of the Common Council to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with the H.E.L.P. Indiana Bond Bank Program and to Authorize the City Clerk Treasurer to Execute documents for the agreement."** that Ann DeVore moved to approve the use of funds and to enter into a lease-purchase agreement. Augie Tindell seconded. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

IV. **Other Business**

A. **Standing Committee and Liaison Reports** some liaison reports were shared for informational purposes

B. Next regularly scheduled meeting will only have three council members present. Therefore the President Pro Temp will meet with the Mayor to discuss if there is need for another meeting until the regularly scheduled meeting of April 1, 2003. **Until further notice the council will meet again on April 1.**

C. **Adjourn** – John Brown moved for adjournment. Rob Kittle seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM.

ATTEST:

Presiding Officer of the Common Council

Columbus City Clerk Treasurer